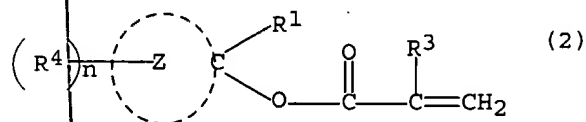


wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group; R^2 represents an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group; R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an oxygen containing group, an amino group or an N-substituted amino group; n represents an integer of not less than 1; with proviso that all R^4 s are not concurrently hydrogen atoms, and R^4 may be varied according to n ; the Z ring represents a polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon ring; R^1 and R^2 may, jointly and together with adjacent carbon atom, form an alicyclic hydrocarbon ring,

or by the following formula (2)



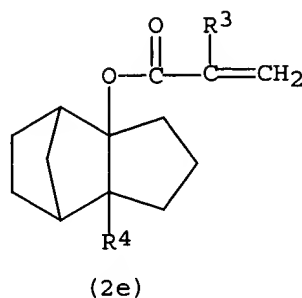
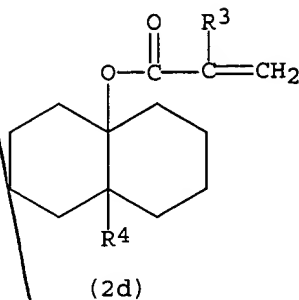
wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group; R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an oxygen-containing group, an amino group or an N-substituted amino group; n represents an integer of not less than 1; with proviso that all R^4 s are not concurrently hydrogen atoms, and R^4 may be varied according to n ;

and Z represents a polycyclic alicyclic hydrocarbon ring selected from the group consisting of spiro hydrocarbon rings, ring assembly hydrocarbon rings, fused-ring hydrocarbon rings, and bridged rings, wherein the bridged ring is selected from the group consisting of tricyclic hydrocarbon rings, tetracyclic hydrocarbon rings and hydrogenated dimers of dienes. ?

C2 3. (Amended) The acid-responsive compound according to Claim 1 wherein, in the formula (1), the Z ring is a bridged ring-type hydrocarbon ring comprising 2 to 4 rings.

C3 8. (Amended) The acid-responsive compound according to Claim 7, wherein R¹ in the formula (1a) is a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain C₁₋₄ alkyl group, and R¹ in the formula (2a) is a straight-chain or branched-chain C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R² is a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain C₁₋₄ alkyl group; R³ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; at least one of R⁴s is at least one oxygen-containing group selected from the group consisting of oxo group, hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a cycloalkyloxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an aralkyloxycarbonyl group, hydroxymethyl group, carbamoyl group, an N-substituted carbamoyl group and nitro group.

9. (Amended) An acid-responsive compound represented by the following formula (2d) or (2e);



wherein R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an oxygen-containing group, an amino group or an N-substituted amino group.